A GENERAL

ACCOUNT

OF

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, &c.

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OF

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,

AND ITS ENVIRONS:

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

Infirmo capiti fluit utilis, utilis alvo;
Hœ latebræ dulces!
Fies nobilium tu quoque fontium.

HORAT.

LONDON:
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M DCC LXXI.

PREFATORY

NTRODUCTION.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS lie in the extreme part of *Weſt-Kent*, divided from *Suſſex* by a ſmall ſtream that ſeparates the two counties at that place. It has in its nearer vicinity *Pembury*, *Bayhall*, *Brenchley*, and *Lamberhurſt*, on the Eaſt; *Frant*, *Wadhurſt*, and *Waterdown* foreſt, on the South; *Withyham*, *Aſhurſt*, *Penſhurſt*, and *Speldhurſt*, on the Weſt; and *Southboro'*, *Bounds*, *Somerhill*, and *Tunbridge*, on the North.

In a larger circuit, *Maidſtone* is about twenty miles diſtant from the Wells, Eaſt; *Cranbrook* about twenty miles, S. E. *Lewes* about twenty miles, S. W. *Eaſt-Grinſtead* twelve miles, W. *Se'enoak* thirteen miles, N.

The moſt remarkable places within theſe boundaries, which are chiefly viſited by the company during their ſtay at *Tunbridge Wells* (which have the beſt roads from thence) are deſcribed in the following pages.

In the hiſtorical part, the Editor has chiefly followed *Lambourn*, *Philpot*, and *Harris*; the deſcriptive part was taken from ocular views on the ſpot.

With regard to the ſhort general medicinal account here given of the *Tunbridge* Mineral Water, *that* was had briefly from the writings and information of the faculty: thoſe who are deſirous of a larger, fuller, and more particular account of them, may conſult the principal writers thereon; *(viz.)* *Rowzee*, publiſhed

ſeveral

ſeveral times in 12mo; the *Harleian* Miſcellany, 8. 316. Doctor *Patrick Madan*'s *Philoſophical and Medicinal Eſſay of the Waters of* Tunbridge, written to a perſon of honour, *London*, 1687. 4to. *Rutty*'s *Synopſis*, *Linden*, *Short*, *Monro*, and others, in their treatiſes on mineral and chalybeate waters.

There have been written heretofore, at different periods, deſcriptive accounts of *Tunbridge Wells*, and its environs; the laſt of which, publiſhed by *Benge Burre*, 8vo. 1766 ——— Let it be obſerved, that this account is not meant as a depreciating cenſure of their works, but as a ſupplement to them; many things being here mentioned which were omitted in them, ſome of which perhaps had not exiſtence at the time of thoſe publications.

The Editor of this confeſſes likewiſe, he had in view the intereſts of the inhabitants and neighbours of *Tunbridge Wells*, which he is deſirous of promoting hereby, eſpecially of thoſe who have but little elſe beſides the water-drinking-ſeaſon to depend on, for the ſupport and maintenance of themſelves and families.

At

At the ſame time it is hoped, that this deſcription will prove an agreeable amuſement to the Editor's friends, and others; and ſerve as a general invitation to *Tunbridge*, and as a new Directory to all the viſitors of that healthful and delightful place.

Theſe are the chief motives that induced the Author, at his leiſure hours, to write and publiſh the following account; and whatever profit may ariſe from the ſale of it, will be applied to the benefit of a family in diſtreſs.

AN

AN

ACCOUNT

OF

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,

&c.

Of the Diſcovery of the Water, and the Progreſſive Improvement of the Place.

AT what time, and in what manner theſe Wells were firſt diſcovered, it may be perhaps difficult exactly to determine, and the enquiry would be more curious than uſeful. However, amongſt the various opinions that have been given upon this occaſion, the moſt generally received one is, that about the end of Queen *Elizabeth*'s reign, or the beginning of the reign of King *James* the firſt, *Dudley* Lord *North* having hurt his conſtitution by living too gayly and freely, came down to a hunting ſeat belonging to Lord *Abergavenny* near *Tunbridge*, in order to repair his broken ſtate of health by a more retired and regular life. It was in this neighbourhood he caſually diſcovered theſe waters, by obſerving the mineral ſcum on the ſurface, and the chalybeate taſte. Wherefore, willing to try every thing that art or

accident ſhould offer in his caſe, which was deemed a loſt one, he bottled up ſome of this mineral water, and carried it to his phyſicians in town, who examined its medicinal qualities firſt in town, immediately upon receiving it from his Lordſhip, and afterwards came down to inveſtigate its properties by a more minute and regular proceſs at the ſpring itſelf. And ſo far were they convinced of its healing virtues in particular caſes, that they adviſed their noble patient, to return to the neighbourhood where he diſcovered it, to drink the waters regularly at the ſpring-head for ſome time in the then approaching warm ſeaſon of the year; which his Lordſhip accordingly did, and by ſobriety, temperance, and moderate exerciſe, repaired his conſtitution, and re-eſtabliſhed his health. To the recovery of which not only the water, but the air likewiſe greatly contributed; the air here being very pure, and wholeſome; as it is juſtly thought to be impregnated with the effluvia of the ſame mineral which gives virtue to the water.

They were named *Tunbridge Wells*, (though really in *Speldhurſt* pariſh) becauſe, as is ſuppoſed, *Tunbridge* is the neareſt town of any conſiderable magnitude, and becauſe the company who firſt frequented them, took lodgings moſtly at *Tunbridge*.

After Lord *North's* recovery, Lord *Abergavenny*, on the borders of whoſe eſtate the ſprings were diſcovered, cleared the ground of the wood and buſhes that grew about them, for the acceſs and benefit of the ſick and diſeaſed who ſhould chuſe to make trial of them. There were ſeven ſprings found out at firſt, but his Lordſhip incloſed and fenced the two principal ones only.

Many

Many patients received yearly ſignal benefit, and great cures from theſe Wells, which in a few years began to be much talked of; and their fame was ſpread the more, as they were often frequented by many of the nobility and gentry of the land, and by ſome of the royal family.

Henrietta Maria, the royal conſort of *Charles* I. came here for the ſake of her health, after her delivery of Prince *Charles*, and with her retinue lived in a magnificent manner in tents on *Biſhop's-Down Common*.

The troubleſome times that happened in and after King *Charles* I. reign obſtructed the improvements of this place, as well as other more important matters.

But in the more peaceful and jocund reign of Charles II. who, attended by his gay and feſtive court, ſometime honoured *Tunbridge Wells* with his royal reſidence, this place became more and more celebrated and frequented. The Wells were now more ſtrongly and more neatly incloſed and fenced, and ſhady walks planted around them, with many other new accommodations for the reception, refreſhment, and entertainment of the water-drinkers. For now company began to reſort hither for ſocial pleaſure, as well as health; and new lodging-houſes were built nearer the Wells; at *Southborough*, about two or three miles diſtant, and at *Ruſthall*, about a mile diſtant from the Wells, together with ball-rooms, coffee-houſes, bowling-greens, &c.

During the hot times of party rage (particularly in the reigns of *Charles* I. and II.) the Royaliſts and Churchmen lived together at *Southborough*, and the Round-heads and Preſbyterians at *Ruſthall*.

Not long after King *Charles* II. and his Queen had been at the Wells, a Comedy, called *Tunbridge Wells*, or, *The Courtſhip of a Day*, was written by * a *Perſon* of *Quality*. And in the beginning of Queen *Anne's* reign, another Comedy was written by *Baker* †, called *Tunbridge Walks*, or *The Yeoman of Kent*. In both theſe plays are deſcribed the humours, cuſtoms, diverſions, and dreſſes, with the aſſortment and manners of the company at that time.

And thus did *Tunbridge* continue to increaſe its reputation and number of viſitors; and as eaſe, convenience, and advantage dictated, the lodging-houſes, aſſembly-rooms, coffee-houſes, taverns, &c. were removed to, and new ones built at and about the Wells, on the places where they now ſtand.

At laſt, like great cities and empires, *Tunbridge* aroſe from ſmall beginnings to its preſent magnitude and fame.

Of the *Preſent State and Condition* of the WELLS.

The lodging-houſes, and all the common, and the ground thereunto belonging, comprehended under the

* Who the perſon of quality was that wrote the Comedy called *Tunbridge Wells*, or, *The Courtſhip of a Day*, is unknown. *Langbaine* ſays, he was informed it was written by Mr. *Rawlins*. There is prefixed to it a very curious and good print of the form of the old Well, and the company ſurrounding it at that time.

† *Baker* who wrote *Tunbridge Walks*, or, *The Yeoman of Kent*, was the ſon of an eminent attorney in the city of *London*, and wrote four more comedies beſides this, *viz.* 1. *The Humours of the Age*, 1704. 2. *An Act at Oxford*, 1705. 3. *Hampſtead Heath*, 1707. 4. *The Fine Ladies Airs*, or, *an Equipage of Lovers*, 1708.

general

general name of *The Wells*, are now become a conſiderable town or village: Conſiſting 1ſt. of *Mount Sion*, which comprizes two or three ſtreets of very genteel lodging-houſes and gardens, on a beautiful hill neareſt to the ſpring. 2d. *Mount Pleaſant*, on, and near which are ſome more very genteel lodging-houſes. 3d. The *Culverden*; this too is a row of very genteel houſes: And on *Mount Ephraim*, and *Biſhop's-Down* are ſome more very handſome houſes for lodgers. But the principal part is the Well itſelf, with the walks and houſes adjoining.

The Well is fenced in by a parapet wall, with a brick pavement round it, and a roof over it which is extended from a contiguous hall, built for the water-dippers, who attend therein to ſerve the waters to thoſe who come to drink them.

From the Well the Walks begin, on both ſides of which, but chiefly on the right hand all along are traders ſhops, viz. milleners, perfumers, fruiterers, and venders of *Tunbridge* ware; the coffee houſe, public rooms, lodging houſes, taverns, inns, and apothecaries and ſurgeons ſhops, &c.

There is an handſome and ſpacious chapel here, built and repaired by ſubſcription, and the chaplain likewiſe paid by the voluntary contributions of the company *.

There is a good fiſh market well ſupplied with variety of ſea, pond, and river fiſh: and a country market abundantly ſtocked with butter, eggs, garden-ſtuff, and very fine poultry; and the butchers here are remarkable for their excellent good meat, eſpecially the mutton from the South Downs of Suſſex. Here too is to be had in the greateſt

* A charity ſchool is likewiſe here maintained, for 50 boys and girls, by the benevolent donations of the company.

greateſt perfection, that delicious fat little bird the Wheat-ear.

There are three excellent taverns at the place, where a perſon may live in as moderate, or in as elegant a ſtyle as he pleaſes.

There are two very elegant and ſpacious public rooms for balls and aſſemblies; and a maſter of the ceremonies, generally choſen by the majority of the company.

A cold bath is prepared for thoſe who are recommended to uſe it; and very lately a medicinal water, called *Adam's* Well, has been incloſed and made convenient for the remedy of ſcorbutic caſes, and cutaneous eruptions; and which, from its well known and tried qualities, it is thought may anſwer in many caſes, as well as ſea water.

A ſkilful phyſician, apothecary, and ſurgeon, who have long been the inhabitants of the place, as well as other ſkilful phyſicians from *London*, conſtantly attend to give their advice in all caſes.

Here likewiſe are all the conveniences of a daily poſt, a ſtage coach, carriers, and all other reaſonable accommodations that can be wanted, or wiſhed for, during the whole ſeaſon.

Tunbridge Wells ſeaſon, as it is called, generally begins the latter end of *May*, or beginning of *June*, and laſts till *Michaelmas* or after; and is at its height about the middle of *Auguſt*.

The above deſcribed ſtreets and houſes in part ſurround and incloſe a large and healthy heath or common, called

called the *Wells-Common*; in the middle of which is planted a grove, in grateful and honourable memory of Queen *Anne*, who was often at *Tunbridge*, and which is now called the *Queen's Grove*.

The whole has a very rural appearance, and is, as it is truly ſaid to be in the Memoirs of Count *Gramont*, the moſt agreeable and moſt entertaining country retreat in *England*.

Of the Nature and Uſe of the WATERS.

Nothing can hurt the reputation of theſe chalybeate waters, except the crying them up, in the ſtyle of empyrics, as good for every thing.

Their principal virtues and uſe are chiefly theſe. They have a fine volatile ſpirit which invigorates; are deobſtruent, and bracing. Conſequently they are very good in all obſtructions of the liver, viſcera, and meſeraic veins of the ſpleen, and in all manner of obſtructions that proceed from a relaxed habit, and a languid circulation; ſuch as hypocondria, jaundice, chloroſis, and female complaints.

As they are deobſtruent and bracing, they are a very good remedy for ſterility.

They are good in ſome, but not in all ſorts of conſumptions; in ſome, but not in all pulmonary complaints. Nor are they proper, without previous evacuation, in a florid and plethoric habit, or in the hyp, proceeding from thence; becauſe they would be apt in ſuch caſes to extend the veſſels, already too much extended, and perhaps burſt them.

They

They will bring on a regular fit of the gout by ſtimulating feeble nature, to throw off the matter that offends her.

Their benefit and efficacy are the greateſt when drank at the ſpring. Some think that by the addition of oleum ſulphuris and vitriol, the waters may be carried to, and drank at a diſtance with equal advantage. But this is impoſſible; for that volatile ſpirit, which Nature, the beſt chemiſt, has given them, by a mineral percolation, &c. would evaporate, if they are not drank immediately on the ſpot; and no other chemiſt can invent, add, ſubſtitute, or infuſe any thing equal to it.

The waters are generally drank twice in the morning, and once after dinner; uſing moderate exerciſe, as walking or riding, between each time of drinking; and obſerving temperance and regularity all the while.—But the particular caſes which they are good for, how often, at what times in the day, and in what quantity; how to be made agreeable to the ſtomach, and how long to be continued, with the regimen to be obſerved, is all beſt preſcribed by the gentlemen of the faculty who attend, and are beſt acquainted with them.

Of the Company that reſort to the WELLS.

This is grand, numerous and various.—'Tis obſerved that the road leading from *London* to *Tunbridge*, was one of the firſt turnpike roads in *England*, and the preamble to the act is remarkable, viz.

"Whereas *Tunbridge Wells* in the county of *Kent* is a place of very great reſort from all parts of this kingdom of

of *Great Britain*, from foreign parts, for the uſe and benefit of the mineral waters there," &c.

Several of the royal family, as well as the chief nobility of *England*, and of other countries, have occaſionally honoured theſe ſprings with their preſence.

Henrietta Maria *, Queen of *Charles* I. received great benefit here; as alſo Queen *Catherine*, the royal conſort of *Charles* II. who, (as was before obſerved) came here with the King, and a great many of his facetious and merry courtiers, and ſpent ſome part of the ſeaſon in great ſplendor, good humour, and affability; and expreſſed the higheſt ſatisfaction at the ſituation and amuſements of the place.

The Duke of *York*, his Dutcheſs, and two daughters, the Princeſſes, *Mary* and *Anne*, (both afterwards Queens of *England*) came to the Wells in 1670; and in 1688, Princeſs *Anne* of Denmark came here; and archbiſhop *Tillotſon*, that ſeaſon preached before her in the chapel, his famous ſermon on the Parable of the ten Virgins. Queen *Anne* came ſeveral ſeaſons afterwards ſucceſſively, and brought the young Duke of *Glouceſter* with her.

The late Prince *Frederic*, and her Royal Highneſs the preſent Dowager Princeſs of *Wales*, were here in 1739. Her Royal Highneſs Princeſs *Amelia*, has been at the Wells frequently; and his Royal Highneſs the Duke of *Cumber-*

* Poſſibly, from ſome obſtruction, or chronical complaint, this Queen was ordered the uſe of medicinal waters; ſince it appears, that, in the ſummer ſeaſon of 1626, ſhe, with the King, for the benefit of drinking at a chalybeate well, reſided nine weeks at *Wellingborough*, in *Northamptonſhire*, in tents, as at *Tunbridge*, erected near the ſpring, on the ſide of an hill. *Hiſtory of Northamptonſhire*, compiled by Mr. *Whalley*, Vol. II. p. 149.

land, came with her the laſt time, in 1762. Their Royal Highneſſes the Dukes of *York* and *Glouceſter*, came here together, in 1765: and all theſe great and auguſt perſonages, received much benefit and pleaſure from the condeſcenſion of their royal viſits.

People of the greateſt title, rank, and dignity; people of every learned profeſſion, and of every religious and political perſuaſion; people of every degree, condition, and occupation of life, (if well dreſſed, and well behaved) meet amicably here together: ſome for the benefit of the water, and air; ſome for a little relaxation from ſtudy and buſineſs, and others for the pleaſure of ſocial and poliſhed life.

And really the appearance of the company, when aſſembled together, is quite beautiful and noble; in the day time, moving along the parade, like a walking parterre; and at night, in the rooms, like a galaxy of ſtars in a bright nocturnal ſky.

Of the Employment of *Time*.

The morning is paſſed in an undreſs; in drinking the waters, in private or publick breakfaſtings, which are ſometimes given by one of the company, in attending prayers at the chapel, in ſocial converſe on the parade, at the coffee-houſe, in the public rooms, or bookſeller's ſhop; in raffling for, cheapening, and buying goods, at the milleners, turners, and other ſhops; billiards, cotillon dances, private concerts, cards, or ſome adventitious and extraordinary curioſity and novelty; a painter, a muſician, a juggler, a fire-eater, or a philoſopher, &c.

After

After dinner, all go dreſſed to the parade again, and the rooms, to tea, in private parties, or in public—At night to the ball or aſſembly, and ſometimes to a play. The ball nights are, *Tueſdays* and *Fridays*; and aſſemblies and cards every other night, except *Sundays*.

While the company are walking on the parade, a band of muſic plays to them from the orcheſtra twice in the morning, before and after prayers; and once again in the evening, unleſs it be a ball night.

A few minutes are ſpent by ſome in making verſes, as the waters, or genius of the place, or as love and leiſure inſpire. Theſe verſes, *jeux de eſprits*, are various and occaſional; but chiefly complimentary to the ladies in general, or to ſome particular fair one. A copy of them is uſually left at the bookſeller's ſhop, and entered into a book there for the inſpection and entertainment of the company. This poetical paſtime, when confined within the bounds of decorum and politeneſs, is very pleaſing and agreeable, and is always ſuppoſed to be exempt from the ſeverity of criticiſm.*

Theſe are the amuſements which are chiefly confined to the Walks. The outward amuſements are, cricketting, horſe-races, and other diverſions; ſuch as walking, riding, and airing in carriages on the contiguous heaths and commons, or excurſions to ſome of the moſt remarkable places in the environs of the Wells; of which a general account is given in the ſucceeding pages.

* The Water-Poets, ſays Mr. *Addiſon*, are an innocent tribe, and deſerve all the encouragement I can give them. It would be barbarous to treat thoſe authors with bitterneſs, who never write out of the ſeaſon, and whoſe works are *uſeful* with the waters. *Guardian*, Vol. II. No 174.

SPELDHURST.

In the Weald, or woody part of *Kent*, are many villages of which the names end in *hurſt* (as *Speldhurſt*, *Penſhurſt*, *Buckhurſt*, *Aſhurſt*, *&c.)* which ſignifies a wood; and *Kent*, in *Latin*, *Cantia*, or *Cancia*, is derived from the old *Britiſh* word *Cainc*, a great wood or foreſt, the whole county being formerly all wood-land.

In the pariſh of *Speldhurſt* are ſome manors of very ancient note; as, *Ewhurſt*, *Forbies*, and *Hollands*; ſo named after their old poſſeſſors; but whoſe places now know them no more, and are but little known themſelves.

Groombridge, in this pariſh, is likely to be more laſtingly remembered, as being the ancient ſeat of *Richard Waller* Eſquire, who, in the Reign of *Henry* V. at the ever memorable battle of *Agincourt*, took the Duke of *Orleans*, general of the *French* army, priſoner, and brought him to his houſe at *Groombridge*, where he was (politically) kept priſoner for twenty four years, as appears by a manuſcript in the Heralds office, as *Philpot* ſays; but *Speed* ſays, about twenty ſix years; and that he was at laſt releaſed by the mediation and negociation of the Duke of *Burgundy*, paying a ranſom of three hundred thouſand crowns, though *Humphrey* Duke of *Glouceſter* ſtrongly oppoſed it.

The Duke of *Orleans* is ſaid to have amuſed himſelf in his long confinement at *Groombridge*, like *Ovid* in his exile at *Tomos*, by having recourſe to the Muſes. He is eſteemed by the *French* authors one of the beſt poets of his age. There is extant, in the *Britiſh* Muſeum, a large collection of his poems in manuſcript, written in a pretty thick

thick volume of vellum: theſe are all in the *French* language. But he is alſo ſaid to have compoſed ſeveral ſonnets in *Engliſh*, though it is uncertain if there are any extant.

In gratitude for the generous treatment he met with during his captivity, he rebuilt the old houſe there, which was anciently a four-ſquare caſtle, and occupied the whole ſpace within the mote, and incloſed an inner court. The houſe, thus rebuilt by the Duke of *Orleans*, after paſſing through ſeveral poſſeſſors, and becoming again ruinous and decayed, was again new built upon a more contracted plan by *John Packer* Eſquire, who was clerk to the Privy Seal, and who alſo built a votive chapel of eaſe to the pariſh church of *Speldhurſt*, dedicated to the ſervice of the All-mighty and All-good GOD, in thankful remembrance of Prince *Charles*'s happy and ſafe return from *Spain*.

This appears from this inſcription over the porch.

D. O. M.
S.
Ob fœliciſſimum Caroli Principis
Ex Hiſpanis reditum
Sacellum hoc
D. D.
1623
J. P.

The old Chantry is ſuppoſed to have been in the Chapel within the Caſtle.

From

From the ſame grateful principle this Prince is ſaid to have repaired and ornamented ſome parts of the Pariſh Church of *Speldhurſt*. This is certain, that his arms are engraven on the Church porch, over which is a nich, that once contained an image, *&c.* and within the church, over that part where the rood loft was anciently placed, is a canopy of fine wainſcoting, adorned with figures of angels, holding ſhields, in a very elegant ſtyle of ſculpture, with ornaments of roſes, and what appear to be groups of flowers de lys: This wainſcoting is in a ſtyle ſo different from, and at the ſame time ſo ſuperior to, any other part of the roof, that one may conjecture it to have been a preſent from the ſame munificent and princely benefactor, who perhaps erected this fine ſcreen-work as a cover to ſome very ſplendid image of his own donation.

King *Henry* V. gave Sir *Richard Waller* for his bravery, and his heirs for ever, an additional creſt to his arms; *viz.* the eſcutcheon of *France*, hanging by a label on an oak, with this motto; *Hi fructus virtutis.*

In the chancel at *Speldhurſt*, on a braſs inſcription on a grave-ſtone, is recorded the death of *John Waller* Eſquire, 1517; and on another in the Church, the death of *William Waller* of *Groombridge*, 1555; and it appears by the Pariſh Regiſter, that *Thomas Waller* was buried 1587. In the chancel there is a fair monument erected to the memory of Sir *Walter Waller*, and *Anna* his lady, without any date; but it appears by the pariſh regiſter, that Sir *Walter Waller* Knight was buried 1599.

There

There are two epitaphs in verſe on this monument, epigrammatical, acroſtical, and anagrammatical, according to the taſte of thoſe times.

Sir *Walter Waller*'s Epitaph.

Ide prayſe thy valovr bvt Mars gins to frowne
He feares when Sols aloft that Mars mvſt downe
Ide prayſe thy fovrme bvt Venvs cries amayne
Sir Walter Waller will my Adon ſtayne
Ide prayſe thy learnyng bvt Minerva cries
Then Athens fame mvſt creepe when Wallers flyes
Aſſiſt vs England in ovr dovlefvll ſong
When ſvch limbs fade thy flovriſh laſts not long
Earth hath his Earth wch doth his corps inrovle
Angells ſing Reqviems to his bleſſed ſovle

Lady *Anna Waller*'s Epitaph.

All worthy eyes read this that heather come
Never decaying Vertve fills this Tomb
Never enovgh to be lamented here
As long as Women kynd ar worth a Teare
Within this weeping ſtone lyes Lady Waller
All y^{t} will knowe Hir more a Saint mvſt call her
Life ſo directed hir whileſt lyving here
Leavelld ſo ſtraight to God in Love and feare
Ever ſo good that tvrne hir name and ſee
Reddy to crowne that life a Lawrel Tree.

Over the Lady.

In a ſhield, *gules*—three naked Swords, *argent*, ranged feſs-wiſe, guarded *or*, between 8 Mullets of the ſame *(viz. or)* in a canton ſiniſter ſubdivided *argent* and *or*—a Lion paſſant gardant, *gules*.

Over the Man.

Quarterly 1ſt and 4th *ſable*, a Bend *argent* (between two Cotices of the ſame) charged with 3 Walnut Leaves *or* of the field. 2d and 3d *azure*, a Chevron *or* laticed with *black* between 3 Croſſes Patée *argent*.

Over the Monument

Are the ſaid 2 coats impaled, the Creſt over the Man's ſide is an Oak-tree, *proper*.—Over the Female, a Hand or Gantlet *proper*, holding the Handle of a Sword, *or*.—The Eſcutcheon and Label are broken off from the Oak by time or violence.

In the center of the Monument is a hollow circular cavity in the marble, in which is a Death's Head ſeen through a glaſs.

Oppoſite to this Monument is another handſome one of fine marble to the memory of *James Long* Eſquire, of *Marybone, Middleſex*, 1714.—This Mr. *Long* firſt built the Cold Bath at *Tunbridge-Wells*, with a good houſe and fine gardens then adjoining.

At

At BARDENS,

About a quarter of a mile northwards, is a foundery and forge for caſting large cannon, and making divers ſorts of iron work, worthy the inſpection and obſervation of a ſtranger.

PENSHURST.

This magnificent houſe, the old ſeat of the Earls of *Leiceſter*, was fortified and embattled in King *Richard* II's time. After having been poſſeſſed by ſeveral illuſtrious perſonages, it was given (being forfeited to the Crown) by King *Edward* VI. to Sir *William Sidney*, who had been his tutor, and was made one of his Privy Council, and Lord Chamberlain of the Houſhold: and from him it devolved to his great grandſon *Robert* firſt Earl of *Leiceſter*; and ſtill continues in the deſcendants of that ancient and noble family.

Of this family was Sir *Philip Sidney*, author of the *Arcadia*—and his ſiſter the Counteſs of *Pembroke*, to whom he dedicates that work.—Lady *Dorothea Sidney*, immortalized by * *Waller* by the name of *Sachariſſa*—and *Algernon Sidney*, who was beheaded for the cauſe of liberty 1683.

Sachariſſa (Lady *Dorothea Sidney*) was married in 1639 to *Henry* Lord *Spencer*, after created Earl of *Sunderland*; and by him had iſſue *Robert* Earl of *Sunderland*, great grandfather of the preſent Earl *Spencer*.

* Mr. *Waller* was of the family of the *Wallers* of *Speldhurſt* before mentioned; and the vicinity of *Speldhurſt* and *Penſhurſt* firſt occaſioned his acquaintance with *Sachariſſa*.

After Lord *Sunderland*'s death, continuing a long time a widow, ſhe was again married to *Robert Smith* Eſquire, of *Sutton* at *Stone*, and *Bound* in *Kent*, from whom is deſcended the preſent Baron *Smythe*.

Whoever has a mind to know more of this illuſtrious houſe, will do well to conſult the Memoirs of the *Sidney* Family and Letters, which were publiſhed by *Collins*, two volumes folio; and in thoſe Letters likewiſe are contained the beſt Hiſtory of the Reigns of Queen *Elizabeth* and King *James* I.

The Hall at *Penſhurſt* Place

Is ſpacious and antique: at the upper end is a pretty arrangement of old martial weapons and ancient armour; and on the walls on both ſides are the pictures of ſome of the *Roman* Emperors clad in arms, and an antique buſt placed in each window.

In the upper Hall

Are ſome fine tables, and vaſes; four gialla (*i. e.* yellow) antique marbles; two verde (*i. e.* green) antique pillars; a ſtatue of *Venus de Medicis*; and another of a dancing Faun—a picture over the chimney-piece of Lady *Betty Sidney*, by Sir *Peter Lely*.

In the Page's Room.

Barbara Gamage, Counteſs of *Leiceſter*, by *Mark Gerard* —*Algernon Sidney*, by *Landen*—many portraits, flower-pieces, and landſcapes—and a ſleeping *Cleopatra* in marble, from *Herculaneum*.

In

In the Drawing Room.

Algernon Earl of *Northumberland*; Lady *Elizabeth Howard*, Counteſs of *Northumberland*; *Henry* Earl of *Holland*; *Robert Spencer*, Earl of *Sunderland*; all by *Vandyke*.—*Robert* Earl of *Leiceſter*, Stadholder of *Holland* 1585; *Robert* Earl of *Leiceſter* 1632, by *Cornelius Johnſon*—*William* Earl of *Leiceſter*, and the Counteſs of *Pembroke*, by ditto—Sir *William Sidney*, about 1612.—*Mary* Queen of *Scots*.—*Barbara Gamage* and her ſix children, 1596.—On a table lie ſeveral ſorts of ancient lamps from *Herculaneum*.—A ſtatue of *Iſis* and *Oſiris* in miniature, lately fiſhed out of the river *Nile*.—And the repreſentation of a human body corrupting in the tomb; a very curious, awful, and humiliating ſight indeed!

In the Tapeſtry Room.

Lady *Lucy* and Lady *Elizabeth*, *Sachariſſa*'s ſiſters.—Duke of *Northumberland*.—Sir *Henry Sidney*.—Lady *Mary Dudley*, wife of Sir *Henry Sidney*.—A muſic piece by old *Frank*.—Over the chimney, a table of green marble.—Two ſmall marble obeliſks and vaſes.

In the Cloſet of Pictures.

Adam and *Eve*.—Our Saviour's Inſtitution of the laſt Supper.—An Angel lighting Saint *Peter* out of priſon.—King *Edward* VI.—Lady *Jane Grey*.—*Fiſher* Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.—Sir *Thomas More*.—Two of the *Dudleys*,—with many more of the works of *Raphael*, *Annibal Caracci*, *Tennier*, *Rubens*, *Paul Brill*, and *Elſheimer*.

In the Gallery.

Sachariſſa, in the habit of a ſhepherdeſs, by *Vandyke*.—Old *Parr*, over the cabinet.—Duke of *Richmond*.—*Baſſan*.—*Lucretia*, by *Corregio*.—*Joſceline*, Earl of *Leiceſter*. Others of the *Leiceſter* family, in miniature, by *Verelſt*. A curious copy of *Cimabue's Madona*.—Our *Saviour* and *Mary*, by *Memmi*, 1340. *Abraham Johnſon's* Holy Family. *Algernon Sidney*, 1664. *Abraham* offering up *Iſaac*, by *Guiacino*.—*Algernon Percy*, Earl of *Northumberland*, by *Vandyke*.—*Sachariſſa*, by *Lely*.—Sir *William Sidney*, 1523.—*Abbot*, archbiſhop of *Canterbury*.—*Morelli Andrios Sarter*.—*Rubens*, from *Titian*.—*Gorburgh*. A picture of a girl holding a glaſs—*Philip*, Earl of *Leiceſter*, over the chimney-piece.—At the upper end of the gallery, in a corner on the right hand, are ſome excellent family portraits, and ſome others unknown. In a large window place, about the middle of the gallery, on the left hand, is an hermit at his devotion in his cell, curiouſly carved in wood; and along both ſides of the gallery ſtand, on marble pedeſtals, the buſts of *Nero*, *Julia*, *Titus Veſpaſian*, *Fauſtina*, *Lucretia*, *Agrippina*, &c.

In the Dining-Room below Stairs.

Three very good pictures, (viz.) *Algernon Sidney*, Sir *Philip Sidney*, and the Counteſs of *Pembroke*.

In the Yellow-Room, behind the Dining-Room.

At one end, a caſt of wreſtlers—at the other, a caſt of the liſtening ſlave. The chimney-piece is of valuable antique

tique marble, ornamented with marble vaſes, &c. from abroad.

N. B. The fine collection of pictures at *Penſhurſt*, was formerly much larger, but a diviſion of them has been lately made amongſt ſome of the family.

The Park.

The chief objects here moſt worthy of notice are, the remarkable tall beech-trees, where there is now a famous *Hernery*—a ſhady avenue, called *Sachariſſa's Walk*—an old oak-tree, ſaid to be that which was planted from an acorn, the day on which Sir *Philip Sidney* was born—and Lady *Gamage*'s bower.

This Park was formerly one of the greateſt and fineſt in *England*, being in ſome places four miles broad, and about ten or twelve miles round. Many farms of late years have been taken out of it, and there remains now but about one fourth part of its former magnitude; yet herein are ſtill about five or ſix hundred head of deer, with ſome well-ſtocked fiſh ponds, and the whole has grandeur, and a fine rural appearance.

This Park, and moſt of the above-mentioned objects, are celebrated by *Ben Jonſon* and *Waller*; and the houſe, pictures, park, &c. have been lately deſcribed by Mr. *Coventry*, in an elegant poem, called *Penſhurſt*, in the 4th vol. of *Dodſley's* Collection.

The Pariſh Church

Is a good piece of Gothic architecture: in it are many old monuments of the *Sidney* family and others, the moſt remarkable of which are, 1. A marble tomb over Sir *William Sidney*, the firſt of that name, who was Lord of *Penſhurſt*, 1515. 2. A fine monument in white marble, of *Robert Sidney*, Earl of *Leiceſter*, and of his Lady, an *Egerton*, daughter to the Earl of *Bridgewater*. 3. Near this, on a grave ſtone on the floor, is an old copper plate inſcription, to the memory of *Pawle Yden*, Eſq. 1564, ſuppoſed to be the grandſon of *Iden* the ſheriff, who killed *Jack Cade*, and thereby ſuppreſſed his dangerous rebellion in 1450. 4. A mutilated figure of a Knight Templar, ſuppoſed to be *Stephen de Penchеſter*, founder of the church, whoſe family, in the time of the conqueror, was poſſeſſed of *Penſhurſt* place and manor, of whom there is mention made in Domeſday-book.

Written

Written at PENSHURST.

By Mr. WALLER.

Had DOROTHEA liv'd when mortals made
Choice of their Deities, this ſacred ſhade
Had held an altar to her pow'r that gave
The peace, and glory, which theſe alleys have;
Embroider'd ſo with flowers where ſhe ſtood,
That it became a garden of a wood,
Her preſence has ſuch more than human grace,
That it can civilize the rudeſt place:
And beauty too, and order can impart,
Where nature ne'er intended it, nor art.
The plants acknowledge this, and her admire;
No leſs than thoſe of old did ORPHEUS' lyre:
If ſhe ſits down, with tops all tow'rds her bow'd,
They round about her into arbors crowd:
Or if ſhe walk, in even ranks they ſtand,
Like ſome well marſhall'd and obſequious band.
AMPHION ſo made ſtones and timber leap
Into fair figures, from a confus'd heap:
And in the ſymmetry of her parts is found
A power, like that of harmony in ſound.

Ye lofty beeches, tell this matchleſs dame,
That if together ye fed all one flame,
I could not equalize the hundredth part,
Of what her eyes have kindled in my heart!
Go, boy, and carve this paſſion on the bark
Of yonder tree, which ſtands the ſacred mark

Of

Of noble SIDNEY's birth; when ſuch benign,
Such more than mortal-making ſtars did ſhine;
That there they cannot but for ever prove
The monument, and pledge, of humble love:
His humble love, whoſe hope ſhall ne'er riſe high'r,
Than for a pardon that he dares admire.

Extract from a Poem to PENSHURST.

By Ben. Jonſon.

Thou haſt thy walks for health, as well as ſport,
Thy mount, to which the Dryads doe reſort,
Where PAN and BACCHUS their high feaſts have made,
Beneath the broad beech, and the cheſt-nut ſhade;
That taller tree, which of a nut was ſet,
At his great birth, where all the Muſes met:
There, in the writhed bark, are cut the names
Of many a *Sylvane*, taken with his flames;
And thence, the ruddy ſatyres oft provoke
The lighter faunes, to reach thy * Ladies Oke.
Thy copp's too named of ‡ *Gamage* thou haſt there,
That never fails to ſerve thee ſeaſon'd deere.

* There is a traditional report, that a Counteſs of *Leiceſter* was once taken in labour, under, or near a great oak, in *Penſhurſt* park, which was afterwards called, My Lady's oak.

‡ Now called Lady *Gamage*'s bower, where *Barbara Gamage*, Counteſs of *Leiceſter*, is ſaid to have taken great delight in feeding ſeveral deer from her own hands.

The

The High Rocks

Are about one mile and a half from the Wells, weſtward, in number about ten or twelve, and ſome of them about twenty yards in height. Theſe rocks afford great matter of ſpeculation to the curious naturaliſt, and antiquarian. The ground on the ſouth ſide of them is level with their tops, on which are growing ſeveral plants and trees. They are partly divided from each other, and ſplit in ſeveral places, by great clefts and chaſms, ſo that the protuberances of them, ſeen from the North-ſide, reſemble the heads and hulls of ſo many ſhips in dock, ready to be launched. Without doubt, *Waller* alludes to them in his poem, written at *Penſhurſt*, wherein he complains of the hardneſs of *Sachariſſa's* heart:

——————" To no human ſtock
We owe this fierce unkindneſs; but the rock,
That cloven rock produc'd thee, by whoſe ſide
Nature to recompence the fatal pride
Of ſuch ſtern beauty, placed thoſe healing ſprings
Which not more help, than that deſtruction brings."

The ſtream of water from *Tunbridge Wells*, thoſe healing ſprings, runs by theſe rocks, and there are no other nearer to them, ſo worthy of a poet's or an hiſtorian's pen.

Between theſe rocks, and the oppoſite hills, there is a deep narrow winding valley, which by ſome is ſuppoſed to have been the bed of a river, now dry and deſerted. Some think it occaſioned by the violence of an earthquake; and others are of opinion, that this whole irre-

gular, and romantic ſcene, was the effect of the univerſal deluge.

Parties from the Wells frequently come here to drink tea, or to regale themſelves with a cold collation, attended with muſic, eſpecially *French* horns; the ſound of which is melodiouſly re-echoed from the neighbouring woods, hills, and water.

Within one of the innermoſt clefts on the ſide of one of the middlemoſt rocks, are engraved theſe lines, with this date,

1702.

" This ſcratch I make that you may know
On this rock lies beauteous Bow.
Reader—this rock is young Bow's bell,
Strike with thy ſtick, and ring his knell."

Do ſo; and it rings like a bell indeed. The ſound ſeems to be occaſioned by the vaulted juncture of two rocks at top. The above lines are ſaid to be the epitaph of a Lady's favourite, who died at *Tunbridge Wells*, and was buried here with much funeral pomp and ſolemnity by her Ladyſhip; who has thus made (ſome conſolation to her grief!) theſe huge and famous rocks the grand mauſoleum—of a lap-dog!

FRANT.

A village in *Suſſex*, ſituated on a high hill, two miles from the Wells; from whence there is a pleaſant ride or walk, in a good road, over *Ivy-down* foreſt. It commands the moſt extenſive proſpect of any place near the Wells, or in *Kent*, or perhaps in all *England*. One ſees from hence

hence all through *Eaſt-Kent* to *Canterbury* hills, within a mile of *Dover*; the *South* downs in *Suſſex*; *Northwards*, over *Bounds*, *Se'en-oak* hills, and *Marams-court* hills, and the adjacent parts of *Chatham*; and *Weſtwards*, *Leith* and *Box* hills, near *Darking* in *Surry*. From the top of the church-tower-ſteeple one's eyes will be almoſt fatigued in being extended over ſuch a vaſt tract of land; about one hundred miles from the Eaſtern to the Weſtern horiſon. There are many fine views and landſcapes, in the neighbourhood of *Tunbridge-Wells*, over ſome parts of *Kent*, *Surry*, and *Suſſex*; but this by far exceeds all the reſt.

On the Green in *Frant*, are ſeveral hillocks, on which it is ſuppoſed the country people formerly exerciſed themſelves at ſhooting at butts, with bows and arrows; *that* being the uſual athletic ſport of the country then, as leaping and throwing the bar were afterwards, and as *cricketing* is now.

In the church is nothing remarkable. In the church-yard are two large yew-trees, like the pillars of a gate, through which the way leads to the church porch. *Yews* were planted in church-yards, (as well as in fields) not ſo much perhaps for their funereal and evergreen appearance, as for the uſe of them in ſupplying wood to make bows in the times of archery *.

On the Weſt ſide joining to *Frant* is the beſt view of *Eridge* park, taken out of *Waterdown* foreſt. It contains

* It is obſervable, that yew-trees are more common in the hedge-rows, in the ſouthern counties bordering on the ſea, than in any other. In theſe counties, many church-porches have a room over them, named the *ſpright-loft*. In this apartment it is probable the bows and arrows, as in a kind of armoury, were laid up for uſe; as the name ſeems to be taken from *ſpright*, antiently ſignifying an arrow.

about 1000 acres of land, and 500 head of deer, very beautifully variegated with clumps of trees, woodland, and lakes of water.

BAYHAM, or BEGHAM ABBEY,

Was anciently a religious houſe for præmonſtratenſian canons.—The premiſes belonging thereto in former times were ſituated part in *Suſſex*, and part in *Kent*: what remains of the abbey, and the houſe lately built near to it, are in the county of *Suſſex*, which is there parted from *Kent* by the ſtream that runs by it. The ruins of this abbey are now the property of *John Pratt* Eſquire, a near relation of Lord *Camden*'s; who is very careful to preſerve theſe venerable ruins, and has built a little neat ſummer ſeat, in the Gothic taſte, nigh to the abbey, where he uſually reſides a few months in the ſummer.

It is the beſt and moſt pleaſant way to go from the Wells to *Bayham* Abbey by *Frant*, and much the ſafeſt in a carriage. *Bayham* is ſix miles diſtant from the Wells. At a gate three miles beyond *Frant*, called *Tinker-Wood Gate*, there is preſented to one's view, a very fine ſemi-circular rural theatre, adorned with the richeſt ſcenery of nature: on the right hand lies *Wadhurſt*; on the left, *Bayhall*; and *Goudhurſt* in front, ſeated on a hill, at about five miles diſtance, with a profile of *Lamberhurſt* ſteeple, terminates the view. And groves, woods, farms, and vills, are placed at proper diſtances all along the ſurrounding hills. This is a landſcape fit for the pencil of a *Claude-Lorrain*, an *Albano*, or a *Baſſan*.

Imbo-

Imboſomed in the plain lies *Bayham*, about a mile from the aforeſaid gate, to which a good road leads down with a gradual and eaſy deſcent. The *Abbey* is ſituated in very low meadow ground, according to the manner of building in thoſe times, cloſely ſurrounded with wood, hills, and water. The Abbey, and all the buildings thereto belonging, appear to have been fortified, embattled, and moated round: the old ſtream of the water ſeems to be diverted into new courſes and channels, as was thought now proper to anſwer the general deſign in planting and building there.

The moſt remarkable and chief remains of *Bayham* are, the walls of the Abbey Church, which indicate very plainly that the Church was built in the form of a croſs, well proportioned; the great middle ile of which was about ninety yards, and the croſs ile about thirty yards long; and the breadth of both about eight or ten yards. —Part of the pedeſtal of the high altar at the upper end of the chancel ſtill remains; and in the iles on each ſide of the body of the Church are ſtill to be ſeen (though all unroofed) chanteries and oratories, with niches in which were placed ſhrines, crucifixes, images, holy water, *&c.* There are likewiſe many fine turned arches, and curiouſly wrought pillars and pilaſters, ſtill ſtanding, with ſome few grave-ſtones on the floor, with long croſſes fleury ſculptured thereon, but without any inſcription.

The religious houſe ſeems to have been ſituated on the South ſide of the Abbey Church, of which little or no remains are left, except the ſtones, of which a farm-houſe and out-houſes were built about forty years ſince; to which

which Mr. *Pratt* has lately added a very handſome new building, the front of which, with the windows, doors, chimney-pieces, *&c.* are all in the Gothic ſtyle; as are alſo the bridges, and temples, *&c.* which are erected in the gardens and groves round about it. In a word, Mr. *Pratt* has ſhewn, at *Bayham* Abbey, that good taſte which ought always to be ſhewn in building and planting; *viz.* the obſerving the hints and guidance of nature, and making art conformable and obedient to the genius of the place. It is thus that nature and art mutually improve and adorn each other.

STONELAND,

In the pariſh of *Withyham*, about ſix miles from the Wells. Here is a ſmall but elegant ſeat belonging to Lord *George Germain*, ſurrounded with a park, ornamented with woodland, lawns, and water. In the houſe are ſome few good family portraits; and in the drawing-room, over the chimney-piece, is a fine landſcape, the principal object of which is an obeliſk erected by the Duke of *Dorſet* (when Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland)* on the banks of the *Boyne*, to the glorious and immortal memory of King *William* III. ſignified by this *Latin* inſcription:

Hic Obeliſcus Memoriæ Gulielmi 3.
Ad Ripam Boynæ Poſitus A. D. 1736.
Auſpiciis Leonelli Sackville Ducis de Dorſet,
Hiberniæ Proregis &c.

At the pariſh church is a large burying vault under a chapel built for that purpoſe, belonging to the noble family

mily of *Sackville*. Within the chapel is a very grand altar-tomb of fine marble to the memory of *Thomas Sackville*, one of the thirteen children of *Richard*, Earl, and his Lady, *Frances*, Counteſs of *Dorſet*. This tomb is adorned with ſome exceeding good ſculpture, and a long epitaph inſcribed thereon, ſaid to be written by the lady, mother of the deceaſed youth, of which the following lines are part:

" He ſcarce knew ſin but what curs'd Nature gave,
" And yet grim Death hath ſnatch'd him to the Grave.
" He never to his parents was unkind,
" But in his early leaving them behind.

From theſe lines *Pope* ſeems to have taken a thought in his epitaph on the Honourable *Simon Harcourt*, only ſon of Lord Chancellor *Harcourt*, at the church of *Stanton-Harcourt*, in *Oxfordſhire*, 1720.

To this ſad ſhrine, whoe'er thou art, draw near,
Here lies the Friend moſt lov'd, the Son moſt dear:
Who ne'er knew Joy, but Friendſhip might divide,
Or gave his Father Grief, but when he dy'd.

Pope's well known epitaph on *Charles* Earl of *Dorſet* is not to be found here.

A little diſtance from this church is *Buckhurſt*, formerly the chief reſidence and title of the *Sackvilles*. Of this once famous manſion little more now remains, than a fine old tower-gate, which ſeems to have been a kind of watch-

watch-tower in ancient times, as well as a portal to houſe.

Here, perhaps, or at *Knoll*, *Philips* might have written, or laid the ſcene of ſome of his *Paſtorals*.—The dedicatory beginning of his firſt Paſtoral ſeems to favour this conjecture.

> If We, O DORSET, quit the city throng,
> To meditate in ſhades the rural ſong
> By your command; be preſent, and, O bring
> The Muſe along: The Muſe to you ſhall ſing:
> Her influence, *Buckhurſt*, let me there obtain,
> And I forgive the fam'd *Sicilian* ſwain.

And in his preface to his *Paſtorals* Mr. *Philips* ſays,—"To view a fair ſtately palace ſtrikes us indeed with admiration, and ſwells the ſoul with notions of grandeur: but when I ſee a little country dwelling, advantageouſly ſituated amidſt a beautiful variety of hills, meadows, fields, woods, and rivulets, I feel an unſpeakable ſort of ſatisfaction, and cannot forbear wiſhing my kinder fortune would place me in ſuch a ſweet retirement."

This is at leaſt very deſcriptive of *Knoll* and the circumjacent country, and of the rural ſcenes likewiſe at *Buckhurſt*.

MEREWORTH,

The boundary farm, derived from *Worth*, a country farm or curtilage, and *Mere*, a fence or boundary. It is vulgarly

garly called *Merrod*; about twelve miles from the Wells, in the way to *Maidſtone*, which lies five miles beyond *Merrod*.

The preſent fine new ſeat here was built by the late Earl of *Weſtmoreland*; from whom it came to Sir *Francis Daſhwood*, together with the title of Lord *Deſpenſer*.

It is ſaid to have been built from a beautiful model of the celebrated *Palladio*.

The rooms are neither numerous, nor lofty, but pleaſing and elegant. There are four or five originals by *Titian*, *Guido*, *Hans Holben*, and *Raphael*; ſome family pieces, portraits, landſcapes, *&c.* The ceilings are floridly painted by an *Italian*, who now lives in the houſe, on the bounty of his noble patron.

The gardens here, with the uſual decorations, are much admired; but not ſo much as the meandering ſtream which runs through the meads before the houſe; the gently riſing hills, clad with trees and ſhrubs behind it; the fine proſpects down the valleys on either ſide; and the lawns that ſurround it.

The pariſh church was lately taken down by the Earl of *Weſtmoreland*, being handſomely and ſtrongly rebuilt on a ſpot more remote from the houſe, and no leſs convenient for the pariſhioners. The roof of this fair ſacred edifice is ſupported by two rows of pillars of the *Ionic* order: in the windows are ſome family arms painted; and all the monuments were brought from the old church, and placed here, on which are recorded the ancient and honourable names of *Abergavenny*, *Neville*, *Weſtmoreland*, *Deſpenſer*, and ſome others.

CROWBORO' HILL

Is about ſeven miles from the Wells (in the turnpike road to *Lewes* and *Brighthelmſton)*. In the way thither ſtands *Eridge-Houſe*, two miles off the Wells; which was formerly an hunting ſeat belonging to Lord *Abergavenny*; to which houſe Lord *North* came for the recovery of his health, when he firſt diſcovered *Tunbridge* Wells whilſt there, as has been before mentioned. This houſe is now a farm-houſe, with nothing very curious in or about it, except a piece of old iron ordnance, of an uncouth form, with a very large bore, ribbed round with rings of wrought iron. It lies on the green oppoſite to the houſe, by the way ſide, with a large ball of iron by it, which much excites the wonder and ſpeculation of a ſtranger.

About two miles farther, at *Boar's Head*, on the ſame road, is ſeen a huge high ſtone capped with another large one, like a monſtrous head, an hideous frightful figure!—a ſort of Druid idol, reſembling one of the Rock-Idols, or Rocking-Stones, in *Borlace*'s Hiſtory of *Cornwall*.

From *Crowborough Hill*, there is a fine proſpect, over a fruitful valley, fifteen miles in length, terminated by the *South* Downs; which are famous for barley, ſheep, and that *Engliſh* Ortolan—the Wheat-ear.

But of all the objects that are ſeen, in the extenſive and comprehenſive proſpect from this place, the ſea is the moſt remarkable; which is plainly perceived in a fine day, with ſhips ſailing thereon, through the opening of the hills.

On

On this eminence, formerly was placed a famous beacon, which when lighted, could be ſeen from the ſea, and almoſt all over the interior parts of the neigbbouring counties.

In *Kent*, and other maritime counties, ſubject to frequent invaſions from foreign enemies, there were many caſtles, watch-towers, and beacons more particularly erected, at proper diſtances from each other.

Beacons were made by putting pitch-barrels upon a a long pole, and they were put upon an eminence, ſo that they might be ſeen afar off; for the pitch-barrels being ſet on fire, the flame in the night time, and the ſmoke in the day, gave notice from beacon to beacon, and in a few hours could alarm the whole kingdom, upon an approaching invaſion *.

The late Sir *Henry Farmer*, of *Se'en-oak*, not long ſince founded a ſchool and chapel there, for the inſtruction of the inhabitants of this wild and mountainous country, in the principles of religion, and uſeful learning.

BOUNDS,

The ſeat of Sir *Sidney Stafford Smythe*, one of the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, ſo called, becauſe it was placed juſt at the *Bounds* of the *Lowy*, or liberty of *Tunbridge*. It lies in the pariſh of *Bidborough*, which

* *Prynne*, in his Animadverſions on Sir *Edward Coke's Fourth Inſtitute*, has introduced a record ſhewing the ſtations commonly fixed upon for this purpoſe. So late as the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, beacons were erected on the coaſt of *Kent*, when the *Spaniſh* Armada was expected. In *Lambard's* Perambulation of that county, is a map where the places for theſe ſignals are marked.

ſignifies *by the Borough* of *Tunbridge*, called *Southborough*, the *Saxon Th* being turned into *d*.

The houſe at *Bounds*, is an antient gothic ſtructure, on a very high hill, ſurrounded with a ſmall park.

The Hall,

Is ſpacious, neat, and regular; and well lighted by large gothic bow windows.

In the Dining-Parlour,

Over the chimney, is a good portrait of *Iſabella*, Counteſs of *Radnor*, daughter of Sir *John Smith*, Knt.

In the Dining-Room above ſtairs.

Dorothy Counteſs of *Sunderland*, (the celebrated *Sacharissa*) in the dreſs of a ſhepherdeſs, by *Vandyke*. Sir *Anthony Judd*, founder of *Tunbridge*-ſchool. Sir *Thomas Smith*, who married Sir *Anthony's* daughter, (the donor by will, of bread and cloth, annually, to ſeveral poor people, at *Tunbridge*, *Bibrough*, and *Speldhurſt*.) The portraits of Sir *Thomas Smith's* ſix ſons and ſix daughters, all drawn in the year 1500. *Heyward Bickerſtaffe*, his wife, Sir *Charles Bickerſtaffe*, Sir *Charles's* Lady, and two children, by *Vandyke*, and *Peter Lely*. *Robert Smith*, Eſq; grand-father of the preſent Baron——Sir *Philip Sidney*——Lord *John Leiceſter*, and *Philip* Earl of *Leiceſter*. A fine picture of a Lady, taken at different periods, and in different conditions of life, maid, wife, mother, and grand-mother. Over the chimney, in one frame, *Dorothy*, daughter of *Henry Percy*, Earl of *Northum-*

thumberland, and *Lucy* her ſiſter, wife of *James Hay*, Earl of *Carliſle*.

In a Bed-Chamber.

Sir *Robert Smith*, Governor of *Dover Caſtle*—*Sarah* Lady *Piers*—*Elizabeth*, wife of *Henry Smith*.

In the Park,

Are very extenſive views, and amazing fine landſcapes. Whoever will go to ſee theſe exhibitions of nature at thoſe places in the Park, where they are to be ſeen to the greateſt advantage, (*viz.*) at the Ionic temple, the alcove, banqueting houſe, the gothic edifice in the birch wood, &c. will with the greateſt pleaſure acknowledge the truth of this aſſertion; and muſt own that theſe views and landſcapes, exceed all imitation and deſcription of the pencil or the pen.

SOMERHILL.

This has been a fine ſeat in the pariſh of *Tunbridge*, about five miles from the Wells; and was anciently appointed by the Earls of *Glouceſter*, as a lodge for the bailiff of their great chaſe here, called *Tunbridge Foreſt*, and afterwards *South Frith*. It has had ſeveral noble poſſeſſors, *Edward* duke of *Buckingham*, Sir *Francis Walſingham*, Sir *Philip Sidney*, *Robert* Earl of *Eſſex*, the Earl of *Clanrickard*, Lord *Muſkerry*, in King *Charles* II. time, and Lady *Purbeck*.

The houſe being too large for the family of the preſent poſſeſſor, ſome of the ſtate-rooms are not made uſe of,

of, or furniſhed;—but in them are ſtill remaining ſuperb chimney pieces, fine carved wainſcot, and other monuments of their former grandeur and magnificence. In the dining room above ſtairs, are figures, flowers, and other ornaments in ſtucco; particularly, a repreſentation in relievo over the chimney piece of the Angelic Hoſt, (as it is thought) rejoicing at the Creation of the World, a deſign ſeemingly taken from *Job*, chap. xxxviii. ver. 7. "When the morning ſtars ſang together, "and all the ſons of God ſhouted for joy."

This deſign, however indifferently here executed in ſtucco, is truly noble and ſublime, and worthy the conception and genius of a *Raphael*, a *Guido*, and a *Michael Angelo*; whoſe bold attempts drew thoſe Epic performances of painting, the Transfiguration; the Fall of the Damned; and the Day of Judgement.

The houſe is incloſed with four courts, E. W. N. and S. The front court, through which is the grand approach to the houſe, looks towards the Weſt; from whence you have a fine proſpect to the Surry hills before you, and *Sevenoak* hills on the right. The proſpect is limited by Baron *Smythe's* park on the left.

The town and caſtle of *Tunbridge*, the navigable river *Medway*, and the rich meadows through which it runs, finely diverſified with corn-fields, paſturage, hop-gardens, and orchards, are here in full view, and form a moſt beautiful ſcene. From the oppoſite court on the Weſt ſide of the houſe, are ſeen the *Canterbury* hills near *Dover*, at the diſtance of about fifty miles; but this view, and the ſeveral objects it comprizes, is beſt enjoyed from a riſing hill, on which grow two large oaks,

at

at a little diſtance ſouthward from the houſe. From this ſtand, a ſtranger may behold at leiſure a valley equal to *Tempe*, *Andaluſia*, or *Tinian*.

No wonder that *Charles* II. with his queen, and court, when down at *Tunbridge Wells*, made frequent viſits to this delightful ſituation, which the Memoirs of Count *Gramont* truly ſtile, *The delicious Walks of bright Summer-hill.*

TUN-

TUNBRIDGE.

Tonebrigga, the town of *Bridges*, ſo called from the ſeveral bridges which here lie over the river *Medway*.

Here are the remains of a very ancient caſtle, although (ſays *Philpot*) the onſets of time, and the aſſaults of enemies together, have thrown the beauty and ſtrength (of this caſtle) into ſuch a rude confuſion, that it now lurks in its own rubbiſh; yet formerly it was eminent for being the ſcene of much feude and contention, between the Kings of *England*, and the Barons then in arms againſt them.

In the Barons wars, this caſtle was thought to be ſo impregnable, that the records and archives of the kingdom were lodged ſome of them here, and ſome at *Dover* and *Pomfret* caſtles, which were likewiſe thought equally ſtrong.

From what ſtill remains of this caſtle, the nature of the foſſes, portcullis, annoying the enemy with ſtones, arrows, and other modes of defence, may be ſeen by the curious enquirer into the manner of antient fortification.

Not far from the caſtle, on the oppoſite ſide of the river was a priory, founded by *Richard de Clare*, 1191, for Canons regular, or Canons of St Auguſtin, and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen—of which nothing now remains, but part of the great hall, which has been long ſince converted into a farmer's barn.

Sir

Sir *Andrew Judd*, Lord Mayor of *London*, A. D. 1550, and ſon of *John Judd*, of *Tunbridge*, founded here a free grammar ſchool 1554, and endowed it with a handſome ſalary for a maſter and an uſher, leaving the patronage and inſpection of it to the worſhipful company of ſkinners, of which company he himſelf was a freeman.

This town once ſent burgeſſes to parliament, and gives title of Viſcount to the earl of *Rochford*. It has three good fairs in the year; a good market every *Friday* for corn, poultry, and butter, and an excellent monthly market on the firſt *Tueſday* in every month for cows, ſheep, and other live cattle.

In *Tunbridge* Church-Yard

Is a very handſome monument, to the memory of Miſs *Elliot*, the late famous actreſs; with the following epitaph inſcribed on it:

Ann Elliot,

Daughter of *Richard* and *Mary Elliot*, born the 16th of *November*, 1743—died *May* the 30th, 1769.

Of matchleſs form, adorn'd with wit refin'd,
A feeling heart, and an enlighten'd mind.
Of ſofteſt manners, beauty's rareſt bloom,
Here Elliot lies, and moulders in her tomb.
Oh! bleſt with genius!—early ſnatch'd away!
The muſe, that joyful mark'd thy op'ning ray,
Now, ſad reverſe! attends thy mournful bier,
And o'er thy relicks ſheds the guſhing tear.

Here Fancy oft the hallow'd mould ſhall tread,
Recall thee living, and lament thee dead;
Here Friendſhip oft ſhall ſigh, 'till life be o'er,
And Death ſhall bid thy image charm no more.

SEVEN-OAKS, or SE'EN-OAK.

A market town about twelve miles from the Wells in the turnpike road to *London*, ſo called from ſeven large oaks which grew near the town at the time of its firſt building.

Sir *William Se'en-oak*, was a foundling brought up in this town, and received his name from it. He became afterwards, by induſtry and ſucceſs, like *Whittington* and *Hogarth's* prentice, Lord Mayor of *London*, in the reign of *Henry* V. Sir *William* founded here a handſome free-ſchool, and alms-houſes to perpetuate his grateful ſenſe of the protection and education he received from this pariſh in his helpleſs and deſerted condition.

About the year 1450, *Jack Cade*, that inſolent rebel, after a long fight, ſlew here Sir *Humphrey Stafford*, *William Stafford*, Eſq. and ſeveral other gentlemen of note, who were ſent by King *Henry* VI. to ſuppreſs the rebellion.

KNOLL,

KNOLL,

A very magnificent ſeat in the pariſh of *Sevenoak*, formerly poſſeſſed by many ancient and great families, and ſome time the palace of the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*. *Cranmer* changed it with the Crown for other lands. It has been ſeveral times granted from the Crown, and returned to it again by forfeiture, or otherwiſe. Queen *Elizabeth*, in the ſeventh year of her reign, gave it to *Thomas Sackville*, Lord *Buckhurſt*, afterwards Earl of *Dorſet*, and then Lord Treaſurer to that Queen. In this noble family it has continued ever ſince.

This is a large ſquare edifice, the entrance into which is through a great tower portal, which leads into a ſpacious quadrangular court, with embattled walls, and a graſs-plat on each ſide; in one of which, on a pedeſtal, is a fighting *Gladiator*, in the other a *Venus orta mari*.

From this court there is an entrance through a large tower on the ſide, with a fair portico in front ſupported by eight pillars of the *Ionic* order; over which is an open gallery for walking, with a balluſtrade.

At one end of the portico is placed the buſt of King *William* in marble; and at the other end the ſame in plaſter of *Paris*.

In the Hall,

Which is like a college hall, are the horns of a very large elk, with the entire bone of the head, and ſtags horns on each ſide—The horn of a rhinoceros over the

chimney-piece—A grand muſic gallery—with a ſcreen of curious old carving—and an exact model of the Queen *Anne* galley.

In the brown Gallery

Are the pictures of *Villiers* Duke of *Buckingham*, ſtabbed by *Felton*—King *Charles* II. and General *Monck*, a converſation piece—*Elizabeth* Queen of *Bohemia*—Admiral *Blake*—*Edward Sackville* Earl of *Dorſet*—*Richard Bancroft* Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*—a Queen and child, unknown, but called *Mary* Queen of *Scots*—A man, unknown, but ſuppoſed to be Lord *Darnley*—Both theſe are capital pieces—*Lionel Cranfield* Earl of *Middleſex*, and his daughter—*James Cranfield* Earl of *Middleſex*—King *James* I.

In Lady *Betty Germain*'s Dreſſing-Room.

A Crucifixion, by *Titian*—A very curious head of *George* II. done with a pen and ink—Drawings by *Polodore*, *Michael Angelo*, *Titian*, and other great maſters; and ſome curious paintings.

In Lord *Vere*'s Bed-chamber.

A fine ebony cabinet—Sir *Walter Raleigh* and his Lady, who was maid of honour to Queen *Elizabeth*.

In

In the Dreſſing-Room belonging to Lord *Vere*'s Bed-chamber.

Sir *Kenelm Digby*, by *Vandyke*—Counteſs of *Shrewſbury*, by *Lely*—*Judith* and *Holofernes*—Sir *Antony Vandike* and Lord *Goring*—*Abraham* entertaining the angels—The ſhepherds adoration, by *Baſſan*—A *Flemiſh* piece, by *Hemſkirk*—A full length of the Counteſs of *Middleſex*—Lady *Hume*—The Prince of *Orange*.

In the Billiard-Room, or *Leiceſter* Gallery.

Oliver Cromwell, a portrait—A *Silenus*, by *Rubens*—*Democritus*, *Heraclitus*, by *Dominichino*—Arts and ſciences, by *Baſſan*—Duke *D'Epernon*—Mr. *Brett*, by *Cornelius Johnſon*—*Philip* II. of *Spain* and his firſt Queen, by *Titian*—Sir *Ralph Boſville*, Lord Chamberlain to Queen *Elizabeth*—Prince *Henry*, eldeſt ſon to King *James* I.—Lord *Somers*, by Sir *Godfrey Kneller*—*Robert Sackville* Earl of *Dorſet*—*Edward Sackville* Earl of *Dorſet*—Prince Palatine of the *Rhine* and his three daughters—Lady *Monmouth*—*Ruſſian* Ambaſſador offering his credentials to King *James* II.—Genealogical tables of the Family.

On a window in the billiard-room is painted a man in armour with this inſcription:

Hermannus de Sackvill Præpotens Normannus intravit Angliam cum Gulielmo Conqueſtore A. D. 1066.

In

In the Paſſage from the Billiard-Room.

Two *Madonas*, by *Michael Angelo*.

In the *Venetian* Room.

Queen *Elizabeth*—Dutcheſs of *Richmond*, by *Vandyke*—*Henry* VIII—*Mary* Queen of *Scots*—Fine old tapeſtry.

In the Dreſſing-Room to the *Venetian* Room.

Two candle-light pieces, by *Skalkin*—Sir *Thomas More*, by *Holbens*—A ſatyr diſcovering a ſleeping *Venus*, by *Coreggio*—*James* Earl of *Middleſex*—*Edward Cranfield*, ſon to *Lionel* Earl of *Middleſex*—*Narciſſus* and *Echo*, by *Lely*—An inſide of a church at *Antwerp*—*Cymon* and *Iphigene*, by *Lely*—*Antony Aſhley Cowper*, Earl of *Shafteſbury*—The rape of the *Sabines*, brought by the late Duke from *Italy*—A *Dutch* kitchen—General *Davis*—A fine battle-piece—*Albertus* Archduke—*Iſabella D. G.* Dutcheſs of *Brabant*—*Philip* III. King of *Spain*—*Margaret* Queen of *Spain*.

In the Cartoon Gallery.

Copies of the Cartoons as large as the originals, by *D. Mittens*—*Charles* Earl of *Dorſet*—Lady *Mary Compton*, daughter to *James* Earl of *Northampton*, by Sir *Godfrey Kneller*—*James* I. by *Vandyke*—The firſt Earl of *Dorſet*, by

by *Cornelius Johnſon*—*Henry Howard*, Earl of *Surry*, eldeſt ſon to *Thomas* Duke of *Norfolk*, 1547, by *Holbens*.—*James* Earl of *Northampton*—In a bow-window, two ſtatues, one on each ſide of a table; *viz.* a dancing fawn, and a *Venus de Medicis*—A noble chimney-piece; prodigious high *China* jars—In the windows, many family arms well preſerved.

In the Ball-Room:

So called from the firſt Duke of *Dorſet*'s giving a ball there every *Tueſday*. Lord Warden's proceſſion, *&c.* a grand piece, by *Wootton*—Several whole length family pieces, by Sir *Godfrey Kneller*, *Vandyke*, and *Mittens*—The preſent Duke, by Sir *J. Reynolds*.

In the Chapel-Room.

Figures repreſenting the hiſtory of the Crucifixion, taken from bloody Queen *Mary*'s Chapel, which ſtood over the rood-loft in her own Chapel.—The tapeſtry has the whole ſtory of *Noah*.—The Dutcheſs of *Dorſet*, a full length, by *Hudſon*.

The Chapel.

A fine ancient room, with many ſacred hiſtorical paintings on the windows.—In the Chapel gallery is the ſtory of *Veronica*, in exquiſite tapeſtry, and *Eſther* and *Ahaſuerus*, and a picture of our Saviour expoſed.

In

In the Organ-Room.

Several ſacred hiſtorical paintings, which were placed over the different rood-lofts in churches and chapels before the Reformation; and other old paintings.—The beheading of *Mary* Queen of *Scots*—*John Baptiſt*—A fryar, and many other pictures.

In the Guard-Room.

Carey Earl of *Hudſon*; Father and ſon—*Edward* VI. *Abraham* offering up *Iſaac*—Major *Moor*—The famous player *Betterton*—King *Charles* II.—Lady *Hume*.

In the firſt Tea-Room.

The twelve Apoſtles, from the ſchool of *Raphael*—*Vandyke* and Lord *Goring*, in a frame of tapeſtry—Queen *Ann* of *Bullen*—Emperor *Charles* V.—A curious full-moon-light—*Nell Gwynn*—Some bronzes, and the family arms curiouſly wrought in a looking-glaſs.

In the ſecond Tea-Room.

Fine tapeſtry repreſentation of the boar and wolf—Lady *Betty Germain*—Two tables inlaid with metal.

In

In the Horn-Gallery:

So called from two antelopes horns placed over the chimney-piece. *John Wickliff* — *Chriſtopher Hatton*— *Walter Mildway*—*Robert Cecil* Earl of *Saliſbury*—*Robert Dudley* Earl of *Leiceſter*—*James Wilford* Knight—*John Norris* Knight—*Francis Walſingham* Knight—*Thomas More* Knight—Lord *William Howard*—Cardinal *Wolſey* —*John Whitgift* Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*—*Bancroft* Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*—*Martin Luther*—*Agricola*— *Melancthon* — *Luther* — *Pomeranius* — *Eraſmus* — *Cranmer* Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*—Duke of *Alva*—Duke of *Parma*—Duke of *Guiſe*—Duke of *Bourbon*—Prince of *Orange*—*William Cecil*, Baron *Burleigh*—*Henry Fitz Allen*—Earl of *Arundel*—*Henry* VIII. —*Edward* VI.— *Thomas Howard*, Duke of *Norfolk*—*Thomas Sackville*, Earl of *Dorſet*—*Nicolas Bacon*, Lord Keeper—*Thomas Cromwell*, Earl of *Eſſex*—*William Herbert*, Earl of *Pembroke*—*Henry Howard*, Earl of *Northampton*—*Charles Howard*, Earl of *Nottingham*—Earl of *Surry*—*Thomas Howard*, Earl of *Suffolk*—*Francis Drake* Knight—*George Clifford*, Earl of *Cumberland*—Fryar *Bacon*—*Fiſher* Biſhop of *Rocheſter*—*Gardiner* Biſhop of *Wincheſter*—*John Dudley* Duke of *Northumberland*—*Alphonſo* Marquis of *Paſto*— Duke of *Guiſe*, the ſon.—The Conſtable of *France*—Don *John de Auſtria*—*Thomas Egerton*, Baron of *Elſmere*.

In the Dining Parlour,

Like *Apollo* amidſt the *Muſes*, *Charles* Earl of *Dorſet*, the famous patron and poet, with the moſt eminent *Engliſh*

poets; *Rowe*—*Wycherley*—*Betterton*—*Garth*—*Congreve*—M. *de St. Evremont*—*Thomas Hobbes*—*G. Villiers*, Duke of *Buckingham*, author of the *Rehearſal*—Mrs. *M. Woffington*, in the character of *Penelope*—Sir *Fleetwood Shepherd*—*Prior*—*Dryden*—*Mouſe Montague*, Earl of *Halliſax*—*Charles*, Earl of *Dorſet*—*Fletcher* and *Beaumont*—*Chaucer*—*Otway*—*Charles* I.—Lord *Rocheſter*—*Thomas Sackville*—One of the King *Richards*—*Pope*—*Johnſon*—*Cowley*—*Shakeſpear*—Mr. *W. Cartwright* — Mrs. *C. Philipps*—*Swift*—*Flatman*—*Durfey*, a profile—Sir *Philip Sidney*—*Spenſer*—*Waller*—*Addiſon*—Sir *C. Sidley*.

In the Book-Room.

Our Saviour.—Lady *Betty Germain*.—King of *France*. King *Bryen*.—*Boircombe's* ſceptre.

In the Duke's Dreſſing-Room.

Charles I. and his Queen, by *Vandyke*. Fruit and flower pieces.

In the Colonade.

A caſt of the ſtatue of the liſtening ſlave. A caſt of Roman wreſtlers.

In the State Bed-Chamber.

The Counteſs of *Dorſet* over the chimney piece, full length by *Vandyke*. The late Ducheſs of *Bedford*, full length,

length, by ditto. A ſtate-bed tapeſtry, giving the whole hiſtory of *Nebuchadnezzar*. Siver-emboſſed table-ſtands. Glaſs-frames, vaſes, and other monuments of ancient grandeur.

N. B. Moſt of the pictures at *Knoll*, are capital ones, and very valuable.

In the Park

Is a well-deſigned gothic hermitage, an artificial ruin of an old fortification, winding vales, and riſing ground, decorated with fine plantations of oak, cheſnut, fir, and fiſh-ponds. Here are alſo deer, and game in plenty; and ſome beautiful and extenſive proſpects, one eſpecially, at a place on the ſouth-ſide of the park, called *River*-hill, from whence is ſeen almoſt the whole county of *Suſſex*; and by the help of a teleſcope, the *Iſle of Wight*.

CONCLUSION.

IT is now time to return again to *Tunbridge Wells*, and conclude this account where it was firſt begun. The following tranſlation of one of the moſt elegant of all *Horace's* odes, will ſerve extremely well for this purpoſe and occaſion.

Horace by his poetry recommended himſelf to *Mæcenas*, the great patron of learning in the time of *Auguſtus*. *Mæcenas* introduced his friend to the Emperor, who reſtored him his paternal eſtate, which was forfeited in the civil wars. Upon this eſtate was the famous fountain of BLANDUSIA, celebrated by *Horace* for its clear ſtream, medicinal virtues, and its pleaſant ſituation and rural appearance. That fine Ode (the 13th of Book the 3d.) inſcribed to the fountain of BLANDUSIA, is here imitated, and inſcribed to the fountain of TUNBRIDGE.

ON

ON

TUNBRIDGE*.

O fons Blandusiæ! &c. : HORAT.

O Sacred fount! O chief among
The chief of bleſſings here below;
Whoſe ſtreams have flow'd all pure ſo long,
And ſhall as pure for ever flow:

Oft as the ſweet return of *May*
The ſure revolving year ſhall bring,
Thy numerous votaries ſhall pay
Their wonted honours to thy ſpring.

* This Ode was prefixed to the book of *Tunbridge Poetry*, 1769. A larger ſpecimen of *Tunbridge Verſes* may be ſeen in a Collection of *Water-Poetry*, written at ſeveral places of public and polite reſort—juſt publiſhed.

When

When ſultry ſuns inflame the air,
And all the town with raging heat,
Here ſhall the nymphs and ſwains repair,
And find a charming cool retreat.

Thy Waters genial warmth renew
In age, ſtrength to the feeble add;
Give the pale cheek a roſy hue,
And chear the ſpirits of the ſad.

And whilſt the Muſe ſhall raiſe a ſong,
With all her pow'r, and all her grace,
To celebrate the ſplendid throng
That crowd and dignify the place,

Where health and ſocial pleaſure reign,
Where poliſh'd eaſe and freedom dwells:
No new or ancient fount ſhall gain
A greater fame than *Tunbridge Wells*.

FINIS.

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